

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To the Citizens of Athol:

The Town of Athol became a Green Community by designation of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Resources. The Selectmen, Town Manager, and the Town Energy Committee worked together to parlay this designation into a nearly \$400,000 Green Communities Grant to complete many projects to Town Buildings promoting energy efficiency. Athol was one of the first towns in the state of Massachusetts to achieve this status.

Meanwhile, the Athol Public Library received the good news in July that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approved funding for Athol's renovation project.

In September the Board of Selectmen hosted the Town's 2nd Annual Community Dinner. Residents were encouraged to bring in items from their home gardens and donations from Adams Farm and Hannaford Supermarket rounded out the supplies for Selectmen to host a free family-style dinner in Liberty Hall for the nearly 300 residents that came out for the evening.

In October, selectmen celebrated the 103 birthday of Athol's oldest resident, Florence Shulenburg, by awarding her the Boston Post Cane.

A tax classification hearing was held on December 6, 2012 and Selectmen set the new tax rate at \$15.38.

The Town of Athol launched its 250th Anniversary Celebration in January. Highlights of the celebration included a kick-off ball held in Memorial Hall of the Athol Town Hall and a visit from the Atholl Highlanders and His Grace Bruce Murray, the 12th Duke of Atholl. The Highlanders visited our schools, our seniors, and enjoyed all the comforts of home as they resided for the week with local host families. They culminated their visit by leading members of the Athol High School class of 2012 onto the field for their commencement ceremony.

Selectmen began working with ARRS School Committee to begin the process of building a new Elementary School. The committee's will work with the Massachusetts School Building Authority throughout the process.

In April, voters of the Town of Athol elected Lee E. Chauvette to join the Board of Selectmen, defeating long-time member Wayne E. Miller, M.D.

On a final note, Town Manager David Ames made the announcement that he would be retiring in the fall after eight years. In March the Board of Selectmen began their search for a replacement and by the end of June offered the position to Ludlow resident Michael Szlosek.

We are, once again, proud of what we accomplished together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillip D. King, Chairman
Susannah M. Whipps Lee
Anthony A. Brighenti
Stephen R. Raymond
Wayne E. Miller, MD
Lee E. Chauvette

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